

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06579 231329Z

11  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

DHA-02 ORM-02 /074 W  
----- 051140

R 231248Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6579  
E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, SY, IR  
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIALS VIEWS ON LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 6052

1. SUMMARY: Yael Vered, MFA Director of Middle East and East Mediterranean Affairs, on September 22 gave us her views on some elements in the Lebanese situation. She said that West Bankers would not accept many Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, even in their own state; denied that Lebanese Christian troops were transiting Israel into South Lebanon; suggested that Syria may have its own "red line" regarding Iraqi troops in Lebanon; and expected closer Syrian-Lebanese ties after the inauguration of Sarkis. END SUMMARY.

2. West Bank state for Palestinians from Lebanon? Vered said that the West Bankers themselves would not be willing to accept any significant number of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, not even if a Palestinian state were set up. They would say that the West Bank is "already  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06579 231329Z

TOO FULL, AND COULD NOT ABSORB VERY MANY "FOREIGNERS."

AS ILLUSTRATION FOR HER STATEMENT, VERED CITED THE NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG WEST BANKERS SOME YEARS AGO WHEN ISRAEL TRIED TO ENCOURAGE - THROUGH ECONOMIC MEANS - REFUGEES IN OVERCROWDED GAZA TO MOVE TO THE WEST BANK. THE GAZA REFUGEES WERE NOT WELCOME, SHE SAID. MOST REFUGEES IN LEBANON, LIKE THOSE IN GAZA, HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN GALILEE, NOT IN THE WEST BANK - AND THEY WOULD NO MORE BE WELCOMED NOW BY THE WEST BANKERS THAN THE GAZA REFUGEES WERE PREVIOUSLY.

3. CHRISTIAN TROOPS MOVED TO SOUTH LEBANON, SOME VIA ISRAEL? VERED SAID THAT NO CHRISTIAN TROOPS "NOT ONE" - HAD GONE INTO SOUTH LEBANON VIA ISRAEL. SHE ADDED THAT, AS FAR AS ISRAEL KNOWS, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN TROOPS INTO SOUTH LEBANON. "THEY DO NOT NEED TO," SHE SAID, SINCE THERE IS NO FIGHTING THERE. CHRISTIAN TROOPS REMAIN MAINLY IN THE NORTH AND MOUNTAINS, VERED SAID.

4. IRAQ-SYRIA PROBLEM GROWING? VERED SAID THAT THE ORIGINAL TRANSFER OF IRAQI TROOPS TO THE SYRIAN BORDER HAD MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN SYRIA OR IN LEBANON. SYRIA HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT IRAQ DID NOT INTEND TO STAGE AN INVASION. BUT WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE NUMBER OF IRAQI TROOPS IN LEBANON - FROM WHAT HAD FIRST BEEN 150 TO WHAT IS NOW SEVERAL THOUSAND - THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER SYRIA HAS ITS "OWN RED LINE" IN LEBANON (BEYOND WHICH IRAQI INTERVENTION WOULD TRIGGER AN OPEN SYRIAN-IRAQI CONFRONTATION).

5. SYRIAN-LEBANESE FUTURE? VERED SAID THAT AFTER SARKIS IS INSTALLED, SHE LOOKS FOR A FORMAL STRENGTHENING OF SYRIAN-LEBANESE TIES, WHICH "IS EXACTLY WHAT SYRIA WANTS." SHE FOUND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT AT THE END OF AUGUST - WELL BEFORE THE INAUGURATION OF SARKIS - THE DAMASCUS SEMI-OFFICIAL BAATH NEWSPAPER AL THAWRAH SAW FIT TO SUGGEST A FEDERATION OF SYRIA, JORDAN, AND LEBANON. (WE NOTE FROM DAMASCUS 5966 THAT THE IDEA WAS DISCUSSED DURING SARKIS' VISIT TO DAMASCUS AT THAT TIME.) NEEDLESS TO ADD, VERED SAID, CLOSER TIES WILL HAVE THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF FURTHER JUSTIFYING THE PRESENCE OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06579 231329Z

6. COMMENT: VERED'S STATEMENT THAT A WEST BANK STATE WILL NOT RESOLVE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM REPRESENTS A STANDARD ISRAELI VIEW, AS DO HER REMARKS ON THE STRENGTHENING OF SYRIAN-LEBANESE TIES. HER DENIAL THAT CHRISTIAN TROOPS WERE TRANSITING ISRAEL INTO SOUTH LEBANON WAS QUITE FIRM. IN BOTH THIS AND OUR LAST MEETING WITH VERED (REFTEL), SHE HAS REVEALED PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY TO THE SYRIAN-IRAQI

ELEMENTS OF THE LEBANESE EQUATION.

TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TELAV06579  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760360-0874  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760925/aaaaavqd.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEL AVIV 6052  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MFA OFFICIALS VIEWS ON LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LE, IS, SY, IR, (VERED, Yael)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006